

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180078

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GERMANS PARRY SCHMIDT'S ITALIAN SORTIE

FRG POLITICIANS AND JOURNALISTS HAVE ZEROED IN ON SCHMIDT'S
STATEMENT REGARDING AID TO ITALY. EMBASSY BONN NOTES THAT:

--OPPOSITION CANDIDATE KOHL HAS ACCUSED THE CHANCELLOR
OF ELECTIONEERING, DECLARING THAT ITALY NEEDS NEIGH-
BORLY ASSISTANCE RATHER THAN PUBLIC LECTURES.

--COALITION SPOKESMEN HAVE MAINTAINED THAT SCHMIDT'S
REMARKS WERE IN LINE WITH PREVIOUS BROAD AGREEMENT ON
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HOW BEST TO AID ITALY.

--FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TOLD THE PRESS HE HAD A
"TRUSTFUL TALK" WITH RUMOR JULY 19 AND HOPED THE ISSUE
WOULD BE CONSIDERED CLOSED.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONTROVERSY
IS HEIGHTENED BY CAMPAIGN PRESSURES. ON THE OTHER HAND,
THE ITALIAN SITUATION HAS LONG CONCERNED MANY FRG POLITI-
CIANS AND BUREAUCRATS. IN AIRING THAT CONCERN, SCHMIDT

ADDED ANOTHER SCAR TO THE ALREADY SENSITIVE TISSUE OF ROME-
BONN RELATIONS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BONN 12192, 7/20.)

2. ITALY: THE TIES THAT BIND CRAXI TO THE LEFT

IN THE VIEW OF EMBASSY ROME, PSI SECRETARY CRAXI IS
TIED TO ESTABLISHED SOCIALIST POSITIONS AND HAS LITTLE ROOM
FOR MANEUVER IN THE SHORT RUN. THERE ARE SEVERAL
FACTORS IMPEDING ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN THE POLICIES WHICH
HAVE MOVED THE PSI TOWARD THE PCI SINCE 1974:

--CRAXI'S ELECTION REFLECTED THE VICTORY OF THE "FORTY
YEAR OLDS" OVER THE OLD GUARD, BUT WAS NOT AN ENDORSE-
MENT OF HIS "AUTONOMIST" VIEWPOINT.

--SPECULATION ABOUT A CHANGE IN POLICY HAS FORCED
CRAXI HIMSELF TO REAFFIRM THAT THERE WILL BE NO MOVE-
MENT TOWARD THE RIGHT WITHIN THE PARTY.

--THE NEW PARTY DIRECTORATE REFLECTS THE INCREASED
WEIGHT OF THE LEFT.

--THE PCI SKILLFULLY MANIPULATES THE PSI, PRINCIPALLY
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

THE EMBASSY ADDS THAT CRAXI IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TO TAKE
THE PARTY DOWN AN AUTONOMOUS ROAD. BEFORE HE CAN DO SO,
HOWEVER, HE MUST BECOME SECRETARY IN HIS OWN RIGHT THROUGH
ABLE ADMINISTRATION AND PARTY REFORM, AND MUST ACQUIRE A
NATIONAL FOLLOWING WHICH WILL GIVE HIM THE POWER TO IMPOSE
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HIS VIEW. THIS WILL TAKE TIME, IF IT CAN BE DONE AT ALL.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 11622, 7/19.) KISSINGER

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